

**SAMPLING AND TESTING  
OF STRUCTURAL MATERIALS****IR 17-1**

References: California Building Code, Title 24, Part 1 Section 4-335

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Discipline: Structural

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This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) is intended for use by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) staff, and as a resource for design professionals, to promote more uniform statewide criteria for plan review and construction inspection of projects within the jurisdiction of DSA, which include State of California public elementary and secondary schools (grades K-12), community colleges, and state-owned or state-leased essential services buildings. This IR indicates an acceptable method for achieving compliance with applicable codes and regulations, although other methods proposed by design professionals may be considered by DSA.

This IR is reviewed on a regular basis and is subject to revision at any time. Please check the DSA web site for currently effective IR's. Only IR's listed in the document at <http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/Pubs/default.htm> (click on "DSA Interpretations of Regulations Manual") at the time of plan submittal to DSA are considered applicable.

This IR applies also to testing laboratories, technicians and special inspectors working on projects under DSA jurisdiction.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Interpretation of Regulations (IR) is to clarify who is responsible for the sampling, handling, and testing of structural materials as specifically required by Title 24, Part 1 (California Building Standards Administrative Code), Section 4-335 and 2001 CBC, Title 24, Part 2, Chapters 14A, 16A through 23A (Chapters 14, 16A through 19A, 20, 21A, 22A and 23 respectively in the 2007 CBC) and 33. This IR is not applicable to tests required by other portions of the Code.

**Background:** Title 24 requires sampling and testing of various structural materials. Section 4-335 of Part 1 requires that a testing facility acceptable to Division of the State Architect (DSA) perform all tests. Testing facilities are evaluated and accepted as part of the Laboratory Evaluation and Acceptance (LEA) program. Accepted facilities are listed at <http://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/etrackerweb/approvedlabs.asp>

Section 4-335(d) of Part 1 requires that all test reports state that materials were sampled and tested in accordance with the requirements of the DSA approved project construction documents. Reports must also state that materials meet the requirements of the DSA approved documents.

**1. REQUIREMENTS:** Sampling and testing shall be performed as follows:

- 1.1** The project inspector, a representative of the architect, engineer, DSA or the testing facility may select the locations for sampling. In no case shall the contractor, supplier, or construction manager select locations for sampling.
- 1.2** Testing (including laboratory and field testing) may only be performed by qualified representative of the LEA accepted testing facility identified on form [DSA-102](#), Contract Information Form.
- 1.3** Sampling, protection, handling, transporting and storing of samples may only be performed by qualified representatives of the LEA accepted testing facility.
  - 1.3.1 Exception:** For a minor scope of work, the project inspector may, if qualified and other duties permit, be authorized in writing by the DSA Field Engineer to sample, protect, handle, transport, and/or store test specimens. Copies of this approval will be sent to the laboratory, project inspector, design professional and the school district.
    - If the project inspector performs these tasks he or she shall specifically identify the tasks performed on a verified report (form [DSA-6](#)).
    - The engineering manager of the LEA accepted facility must note "Exception" in Section D of the Laboratory Verified Report (form [DSA-291](#)) and attach a list of each type of material specimen for which sampling and handling were performed by others.